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LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) An *in vitro* ~~method~~ cell based assay for evaluating cellular responses to peroxisome proliferator activated receptor (PPAR) ligands ~~of identifying a peroxisome proliferator activated receptor (PPAR) modulator~~ comprising the steps of:

    (a)   determining a first ~~level~~ mRNA transcript level of a PPAR responsive gene ~~formed~~ selected from the group consisting of pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase-4 (PDK-4) and adipocyte differentiation relating protein (ADRP), expressed in a cell endogenously expressing one or more PPARs;

    (b)   contacting [[the]] said cell ~~endogenously expressing the one or more PPARs~~ with a test compound that binds ~~known or suspected to bind to~~ the one or more PPARs *in vitro*;

    (c)   incubating said cell and said test compound;

    ([[c]] d) measuring a second ~~level~~ mRNA transcript level of [[the]] said PPAR responsive gene ~~formed~~ expressed in the cell; and

    ([[d]] e) comparing the first level of mRNA transcript with the second level of mRNA transcript,

wherein, a difference in the first and second levels of mRNA transcript indicates the test compound is a PPAR modulator.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more PPARs is selected from the group consisting of PPAR-α, PPAR-β(δ), and PPAR-γ.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the ~~mammalian~~ cell is [[a]] the human proximal tubule derived cell [[(]]HK-2[[)]].

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the PPAR responsive gene is ~~selected from the group consisting of pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase-4 (PDK-4) and~~ adipocyte differentiation relating protein (ADRP).

6-16   (Canceled)

17.   (New) An assay for evaluating responses to PPAR ligands comprising the steps of:

    (a)   determining, in a cell, a first mRNA transcript level of ADRP;

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(c)   incubating said cell and said test compound;

(d)   measuring a second mRNA transcript level of ADRP in the cell; and

(e) comparing the first level of mRNA transcript with the second level of mRNA transcript,

wherein, a difference in the first and second levels of mRNA transcript indicates the test compound is a PPAR modulator.

18.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more PPARs is selected from the group consisting of PPAR-α, PPAR-β(δ), and PPAR-γ.

19.   (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

20.   (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the cell is the human proximal tubule derived cell HK-2.

21.   (New) An assay for evaluating responses to PPAR ligands comprising the steps of:

(a)   determining, in a cell, a first mRNA transcript level of a PPAR responsive gene;

(b)   contacting said cell with a single dose of a test compound that binds one or more PPARs;

(c)   incubating said cell and said test compound;

(d)   measuring a second mRNA transcript level of a PPAR responsive gene in the cell; and

(e)   comparing the first level of mRNA transcript with the second level of mRNA transcript,

wherein, a difference in the first and second levels of mRNA transcript indicates the test compound is a PPAR modulator.

22.   (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the one or more PPARs is selected from the group consisting of PPAR-α, PPAR-β(δ), and PPAR-γ.

23.   (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

24.   (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the cell is the human proximal tubule derived cell HK-2.

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